

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074976
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /044 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.:MDRAPER:GCB
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
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R 042312Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074976

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, US

SUBJECT: MEETINGS WITH DANY CHAMOUN

REF: STATE 70440

1. BASED ON OUR TALKS WITH DANY CHAMOUN HERE, WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THAT HE IS CAPABLE OF INDULGING IN RATIONAL DEBATE, AND, UNLIKE HIS BROTHER DORY, APPEARS WILLING TO AT LEAST LISTEN TO OPINIONS WITH WHICH HE IS IN DISAGREEMENT EMOTIONALLY. HE FLINGS OUT A GREAT DEAL OF THE STANDARD RHETORIC ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS AND THE MUSLIMS, YET ACKNOWLEDGES THE NEED TO DEVELOP A REALISTIC DIALOGUE WITH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY, IF CREDIBLE LEADERS FOR THAT COMMUNITY CAN EMERGE. WHILE HE APPEARED PURPOSEFULLY TO EXAGGERATE THE DIFFERENCES HE HAS WITH HIS FATHER OVER SOME MATTERS, OUR GUESS IS THAT HE WOULD INDEED BE WILLING TO ARGUE WITH CAMILLE OR PRESENT OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO HIM, WHILE NOT
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CHALLENGING HIM OPENLY.

2. DANY'S VIEWS ON FEDERAL STRUCTURE FOR GOVERNMENT AND ARMY STRUCK US AS INTERESTING APPROACH TO PROBLEM OF FINDING BALANCE BETWEEN COMMUNAL SEPARATION AND NEED TO MAINTAIN CENTRAL AUTHORITY IN A UNIFIED STATE, WHILE AVOIDING MOVES TOWARD PARTITION. HE ALSO ARGUED STRONGLY FOR DECONFESSION-

ALIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE. (ALL OF THIS IS REPORTED IN
DETAIL IN MEMCON WE ARE POUCHING YOU.)

3. ALL IN ALL, I FOUND DANY CHAMOUN MORE SENSIBLE AND
REALISTIC THAN I HAD EXPECTED. I THINK HE TOOK OUR POINT
THAT WE CAN DEAL OFFICIALLY ONLY WITH AND THROUGH SARKIS
GOVERNMENT AND THAT YOU ARE OUR PRIMARY CHANNEL OF COMMUNI-
CATION. YOU MUST OF COURSE BE JUDGE OF HOW TO HANDLE YOUR
CONTACTS WITH THE DENIZENS OF THE LEBANESE POLITICAL JUNGLE,
BUT I THINK YOU MIGHT FIND IT WORTHWHILE TO KEEP IN
OCCASIONAL TOUCH WITH DANY.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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